

410 Rec'd PCT/PTO 26 SEP 2000

FORM PTO-1390
(REV. 1-98)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

B-4006PCT 618258-3

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

not yet assigned 09/647121 ✓

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/IT99/00070 ✓

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

24 March 1999 ✓

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

27 March 1998 ✓

TITLE OF INVENTION

"DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THE FACILITATED INSERTION OF THE MALE MEMBER INTO A CONDOM" ✓

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Lorenzo DI CAMILLO ✓

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☒ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☐ Other items or information:

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.53) not yet assigned 09/647121		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/IT99/00070		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER B-4006PCT 618258-3	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$970.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$840.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$670.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$96.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).					
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	13 - 20 =	0	x \$ 18.00	\$ 0	
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	x \$ 78.00	\$ 0	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) 0*			+ \$260.00	\$ 0	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$840.00	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				+	
SUBTOTAL =				\$840.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).					
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$840.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +					
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$840.00	
*A Preliminary Amendment deleting multiple dependencies is enclosed herewith.				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				charged:	\$

- a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 840.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0415. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

LADAS & PARRY
5670 Wilshire Blvd., #2100
Los Angeles, California 90036-5679
Telephone No.: (323) 934-2300
Telefax No.: (323) 934-0202

September 26, 2000
DATE

SIGNATURE

John Palmer
NAME

36,885

REGISTRATION NUMBER

Applicant or Patentee: Lorenzo DI CAMILLO Attorney's Docket No. B-4006PCT 618258-3 Serial or Patent No. 09/647,121

Filed or Issued: _____

International Application No. PCT/IT99/00070, filed 24 March 1999

For: "DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THE FACILITATED INSERTION OF THE MALE MEMBER INTO A CONDOM"

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9 (f) and 1.27(b)) -- INDEPENDENT INVENTOR(S)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9 (c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41 (a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled "DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THE FACILITATED INSERTION OF THE MALE MEMBER INTO A CONDOM"

described in

☐ the specification filed herewith.

☐ application serial no.: _____, filed _____.

☒ International Application No. PCT/IT99/00070, filed 24 March 1999, and identified as U.S. Application No. 09/647,121.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9 (c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9 (e)

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention is listed below

☐ no such person, concern, or organization

☒ persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME Vincenzo RUGGERO

ADDRESS Via Vecchia San Gennaro 97 80078 Pozzuoli NA-Italy

☒ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28 (b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Lorenzo DI CAMILLO

Name of First Inventor

Lorenzo Di Camillo
Signature of First Inventor

Date

09 NOVEMBER 2000

09647121

For: "DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THE FACILITATED INSERTION OF THE MALE MEMBER INTO A CONDOM"

I hereby declare that I am making this verified statement to support a claim by Lorenzo DI CAMILLO for small entity status for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, with regard to the invention entitled "DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THE FACILITATED INSERTION OF THE MALE MEMBER INTO A CONDOM" by inventor(s) Lorenzo DI CAMILLO described in

I hereby declare that I would qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying fees under section 41 (a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, if I had made the above identified invention.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9 (c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9 (e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ [X] no such person, concern, or organization
☐ [] persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27)

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28 (b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Signature: M. Vincens Date: 09 NOVEMBER 2000

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lorenzo DI CAMILLO) Re: Preliminary Amendment
U.S. Appln. No.: not yet)
assigned) Group: not yet assigned
U.S. Filing Date: concurrently) Examiner: not yet assigned
herewith)
International Application No:)
PCT/IT99/00070)
International Filing Date:)
24 March 1999) Our Ref.: B-4006 PCT 618258-3
For: "DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THE)
FACILITATED INSERTION OF THE)
MALE MEMBER INTO A CONDOM") Date: September 26, 2000

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attn: United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US)

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, it is respectfully requested that the following amendments be made to the Claims:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 4, Lines 1-2 Please change "any of the preceding claims" to
--claim 1--.

Claim 5, Lines 1-2 Please change "any of the preceding claims" to
--claim 1--.

Claim 6, Lines 1-2 Please change "any of the preceding claims" to
--claim 1--.

Claim 8, Lines 1-2 Please change "any of the preceding claims" to
--claim 1--.

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Claim 9, Lines 1-2 Please change "any of the preceding claims" to
--claim 1--.

Claim 12, Line 1 Please delete "or 11".

Please add the following new claim:

13. The method according to claim 11, characterized in that
it furthermore comprises a step for re-establishing, after the
removal of the condom from the hollow element, the internal
pressure existing before the depression.

REMARKS

The claims in this application were amended under PCT Article 19
by the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA). A
copy of the amended claims is attached. This Amendment amends
Claims 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12 so that they are no longer multiply
dependent. Claim 13 has been added to provide similar coverage.
The Applicant may elect to amend Claims 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12 to
make them again multiply dependent or to add additional claims to
this application to provide coverage similar to, broader than or
narrower than the present claims once examination on the merits
has begun.

Preliminary Amendment
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The Examiner should ensure that the amendments made by the IPEA are entered together with the amendments set forth above.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP' or 'J.P.', written over the typed name John Palmer.

John Palmer
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"DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THE FACILITATED INSERTION OF
THE MALE MEMBER INTO A CONDOM"

DESCRIPTION

5 The present invention relates to a device and a
method for the facilitated insertion of the male member
into a condom.

10 At present the insertion of a condom onto the male
member is carried out by leaning the brim of the same
condom over the erected male member and subsequently
unrolling the condom along the whole length of the organ.

15 A first drawback connected to said very common
insertion method is the possibility, not at all remote,
of breaking the condom with one's nails: very often, in
fact, a correct insertion cannot be carried out by simply
unrolling the condom, with the consequence of a prolonged
handling of the same condom and higher probability of
damaging the latter with one's nails.

20 A second drawback is the impossibility to know for
certain whether the condom presents perforations that
would make its use unadvisable. Very often, in fact,
breaking of the condom during the sexual intercourse is
not so much due to prolonged use or possible problems
which may increase friction, as to pre-existing defects.

25 A further drawback is given by the fact that it is
difficult to insert the condom in the absence of a
complete erection.

30 The present invention overcomes such prior art
drawbacks as it provides a device for the facilitated
insertion of the male member into a condom, comprising:

- a hollow element for containing the condom,
provided with an access aperture;
- means for fastening a brim of the condom to the
access aperture of the hollow element, in order to form
35 an air chamber between external walls of the condom and
internal walls of the hollow element; and
- means, associated with said hollow element, for

creating a depression inside said air chamber forcing adhesion of the condom to the internal walls of the hollow element and allowing the subsequent facilitated insertion of the male member.

5 A method for the facilitated insertion of the male member into a condom is further provided, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- inserting the condom into a hollow element so as to form an air chamber between external walls of the condom and internal walls of the hollow element;

10 - creating a depression in said air chamber, forcing adhesion of the condom to the internal walls of the hollow element;

- inserting the male member inside the internal area of the condom; and

15 - removing the condom from the hollow element, in order for said condom to completely adhere to the male member.

Advantageous features of the present invention are claimed in the dependent claims thereof.

20 In this way, the above-mentioned problems are solved as not only the manipulation of the condom during the insertion onto the male member is almost completely reduced, but moreover the presence of possible perforations in the condom is immediately detected. In fact, the depression which is created would in such case cause the immediate breaking of the condom.

25 A further advantage of the present invention is given by the fact that it is moreover possible to insert the condom even in the absence of a full erection.

30 A still further advantage is given by the fact that the device and the method according to the present invention, given the easiness with which they can be used, are particularly helpful to invalid, handicapped and disabled people in general.

35 The present invention will be hereinafter disclosed by preferred embodiments thereof, shown as non-limiting

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examples.

Reference will be made to the annexed drawings wherein:

figure 1 is a partial perspective view of a first
5 embodiment of the device according to the present invention;

figure 2 is a section view of the embodiment of figure 1, with an inserted condom;

figure 3 is a partial perspective view of a second
10 embodiment of the device according to the present invention, with an inserted condom and in a state of minimum extension;

figure 4 is a section view of the embodiment of figure 3, in a state of maximum extension;

figure 5 shows a partial perspective and exploded
15 view of a third embodiment of the device; and

figures 6 to 8 show how to use the device in the embodiment of figure 5.

Figure 1 shows a hollow element 1 for containing a
20 condom provided with an access aperture, located on top in the figure, which shows means for fastening the condom to the hollow chamber such as a fastening ring 2 to which the brim of the condom has to be fastened. In this embodiment the ring 2 is integrally formed with the
25 hollow element 1, being made up by the peripheral rim of the access aperture of the hollow element. For a different kind of ring, figures 5 to 8 are addressed. A suction duct 3, whose aim will be clarified by the detailed explanation of subsequent figure 2, is also
30 shown in figure 1, which duct is in contact with the bottom of the hollow element 1.

Figure 2 shows a section view of the hollow element 1 of figure 1 with an inserted condom 4. The brim of the condom 4 is fastened to the fastening ring 2. When the
35 condom 4 is inserted, an air chamber 5 is formed between the external walls of the condom 4 and the internal walls of the hollow element 1. The presence of the suction duct

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3 is intended for creating a depression in the air chamber 5, as schematically illustrated by the dotted arrows in the figure; such depression will force the condom 4 to adhere to the internal walls of the hollow element 1 allowing the subsequent facilitated insertion of the male member.

Depression inside the hollow element 1 can be obtained according to various modes. A first mode involves providing the suction duct 3 with a non-return air valve, not shown in the figure. A second mode involves the suction duct being made up of flexible walls, so that it can be closed by throttling. It is to be intended that in this case the suction duct can be advantageously lengthened in order to facilitate the user in the air-sucking operation. It is to be understood that other means for creating depression inside the air chamber could be easily detected by the skilled person.

Subsequent figure 3 shows an alternative embodiment of the present invention, wherein the hollow element 1 is such as to involve a plurality of mobile walls 6, articulated in a telescopic relation and shown in a condition of minimum extension. This kind of embodiment allows a considerable reduction of the space taken by the device. In this case, the depression will be obtained by increasing the volume of the hollow element 1, starting from a condition of minimum extension until reaching a condition of maximum extension, shown in subsequent figure 4, wherein the adherence of the external walls of the condom 4 to the internal side of the mobile walls 6 of the hollow element 1 caused by the depression is easily seen. Embodiments with mobile walls, not necessarily in a telescopic relation, could also be provided.

A simple way to carry out the fastening operation in all embodiments illustrated up to this point will be to widen the brim of the condom by hand until it will be wider than the diameter of the fastening ring, releasing

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thereafter said brim so as to allow fastening of the brim of the condom to the external area adjacent to the fastening ring.

After the insertion of the male member, the brim of the condom will be easily removed from the fastening element, so as to eliminate the adherence of the condom to the hollow element and allow it to adhere completely to the male member.

In order to further facilitate the adherence of the condom to the male member it is moreover possible to provide means apt to re-establish, after the insertion, the internal pressure which existed previously to the above described depression. If, for example, the suction duct has been closed by throttling, it will be sufficient to reopen it. In this way the problems that may possibly arise during the removal of the device in case of male members of small size are solved.

Besides the above-mentioned advantages connected with checking the integrity of the condom and avoiding breaking the condom unintentionally with one's nails, further advantages are represented by a higher hygiene and a considerably facilitated insertion, in particular for users endowed with members of large size.

An alternative embodiment of the present invention involves moreover an additional protective sheath or equivalent means, disposed along the internal walls of the hollow element 1, which can be advantageously removed after the insertion of the condom. In this way the contact between the condom and the internal walls of the hollow element is avoided, in order to guarantee even higher hygienic conditions.

A further embodiment of the present invention provides for the facilitated insertion device to comprise fastening rings of the disposable type, with a pre-inserted condom. These rings are intended to be normally independent from the rest of the hollow body, and connectable therewith only during use. Therefore, a new

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fastening ring with its respective condom will have to be inserted for each subsequent use.

Reference will now be made to figures 5 to 8, showing a further embodiment of the device according to the invention. This embodiment makes use of a fastening ring of the disposable type together with means apt to re-establish, after the insertion, the internal pressure which existed previously to the depression.

Figure 5 shows a partial perspective and exploded view of the device, having mobile walls 6, articulated in a telescopic relationship (represented in figure in a condition of maximum extension), together with a base element 7, having a diameter which is inferior to the minor of the diameters of the mobile walls 6. The base element comprises a hole 8 allowing air passage from the outside to the inside of the device and is internally connected to a screw 9, which is therefore placed internally to the hollow element 1. Also the screw 9 is hollow, in order to consent the air passage from the outside to the inside of the device and vice versa. The function of the screw 9 is that of allowing the screwing onto it of a cylindrical element 10, the function thereof being that of providing a bearing plane 11 for the base 12 of the condom 4, related to the receptacle region thereof.

In fact, it has been discovered by the applicants that the presence of such a bearing element is advantageous, as thus a slight preliminary squashing of the receptacle prior to the depression phase can be obtained, and the possible risk of its inflating is in this way significantly reduced.

The bearing element 10 is screwed onto the screw 9, and it comprises holes 13 allowing the air passage between the mouth of the hollow screw 9 and the inside of the hollow element 1. The elevation of the bearing element 10 inside the hollow element 1 is adjustable, as it simply suffices to screw it more, or less, onto the

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screw 9. Thus, a convenient bearing base 11 can be realized for condoms of any length.

In the embodiment of figure 5, the condom 4 is to be intended as inserted inside of a ring 14, disjointed from the hollow element 1 and apt to be inserted, for instance
5 by fixing, onto the upper brim thereof.

The next figures 6 to 8 show how to use the device in the embodiment of figure 5.

Figure 6 shows how the initial insertion by fixing
10 of the ring 14 onto the element 1 is carried out, therefore ensuring that the base/receptacle 12 of the condom 4 comes into contact with the bearing plane 11 of the element 10. The mobile walls 6 of the hollow element 1 are here shown in a condition of minimal extension.

Figure 7 shows the operation for creating a
15 depression inside the inner air chamber. In particular the position of the user's thumb on the hole 8 has to be noted, to the end of succeeding in the depression operation at issue. The volume increase in order to cause the depression can be obtained either by pulling the hand
20 16 in the direction of the arrow F1, or pulling the hand 17 in the direction of the arrow F2.

Figure 8 firstly shows how, as a consequence of the operation described above, the outer walls of the condom
25 have adhered to the inner walls of the hollow element. Then the condom shall be inserted onto the male member. Once this insertion (not shown in figure) has been carried out, the thumb 15 is released in order to re-establish the internal pressure which existed previously
30 to the depression, so as to allow a first tightening of the condom onto the male member, and then the brim of the condom shall be removed off the ring 14, to ensure the complete adhering thereof.

It is to be intended that various and different are
35 the possible modifications to the embodiments illustrated up to this point, all of them, however, falling within the protective scope of the present invention. For

example, embodiments can be provided wherein the fastening ring 2 is not provided as an additional element, but is integrally formed with the hollow element 1, being in this case made up by the peripheral rim of the access aperture of the hollow element.

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CLAIMS

1. A device for the facilitated insertion of the male member into a condom (4), comprising:

5 - a hollow element (1) for containing the condom (4), provided with an access aperture;

10 - means (2; 14) for fastening a brim of the condom (4) to the access aperture of the hollow element (1), in order to form an air chamber (5) between external walls of the condom (4) and internal walls of the hollow element (1); and

15 - means, associated with said hollow element (1), for creating a depression inside said air chamber (5) forcing adhesion of the condom (4) to the internal walls of the hollow element (1) and allowing the subsequent facilitated insertion of the male member,

20 the hollow element (1) being provided with mobile walls (6), said depression resulting from the increased volume of the hollow element (1), the device being characterised in that it further comprises

- a bearing element (10) located inside the hollow element (1) for bearing a base (12) of the condom (4).

25 2. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that said means for creating a depression comprises a suction duct (3) provided with a non-return valve.

30 3. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that said means for creating a depression comprises a suction duct with flexible walls, the duct being apt to be closed by throttling.

4. The device according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that said mobile walls (6) are articulated in a telescopic relation therebetween.

35 5. The device according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the elevation of the bearing element (10) inside the hollow element (1) is adjustable.

6. The device according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises means for avoiding contact between the external walls of the condom (4) and the internal walls of the hollow element (1).

5 7. The device according to claim 6, characterized in that said means for avoiding contact are removable.

8. The device according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that said means (2) for fastening a brim of the condom (4) to the access aperture
10 of the hollow element (1) are integrally formed therewith.

9. The device according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises means for re-establishing, after said insertion, the internal pressure
15 existing before the depression.

10. A method for the facilitated insertion of the male member into a condom (4), comprising the steps of:

- inserting the condom (4) into a hollow element (1) so as to form an air chamber (5) between external
20 walls of the condom (4) and internal walls of the hollow element (1);

- creating a depression in said air chamber (5), forcing adhesion of the condom to the internal walls of the hollow element (1), said depression being obtained by
25 increasing the volume of the hollow element (1);

- inserting the male member inside the internal area of the condom (4); and

- removing the condom (4) from the hollow element (1), in order for said condom (4) to completely adhere to
30 the male member,

characterised in that it further comprises the step of

- providing a bearing plane (11) for a base (12) of the condom (4) before said step of creating a depression.

11. The method according to claim 10, characterized
35 in that said depression is obtained by suction of the air contained inside said hollow element (1).

12. The method according to claim 10 or 11,

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characterized in that it furthermore comprises a step for re-establishing, after the removal of the condom (4) from the hollow element (1), the internal pressure existing before the depression.

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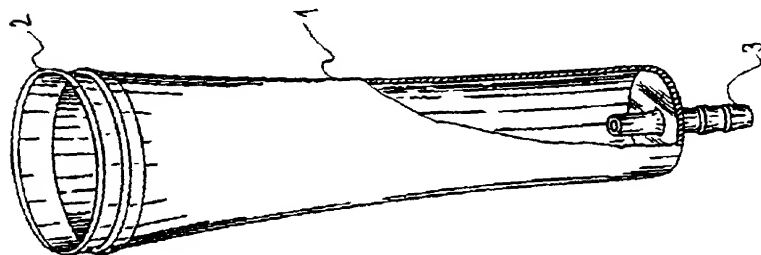


FIG. 1

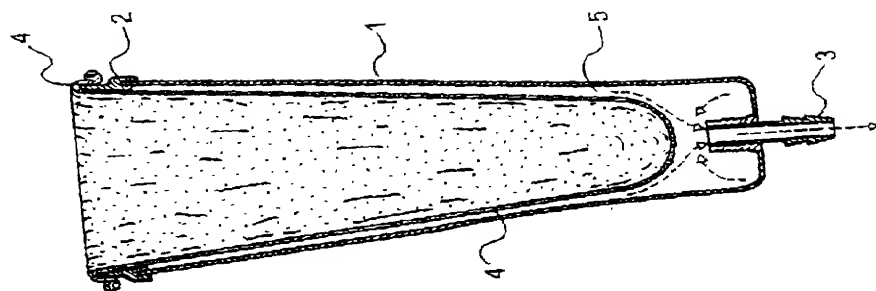


FIG. 2

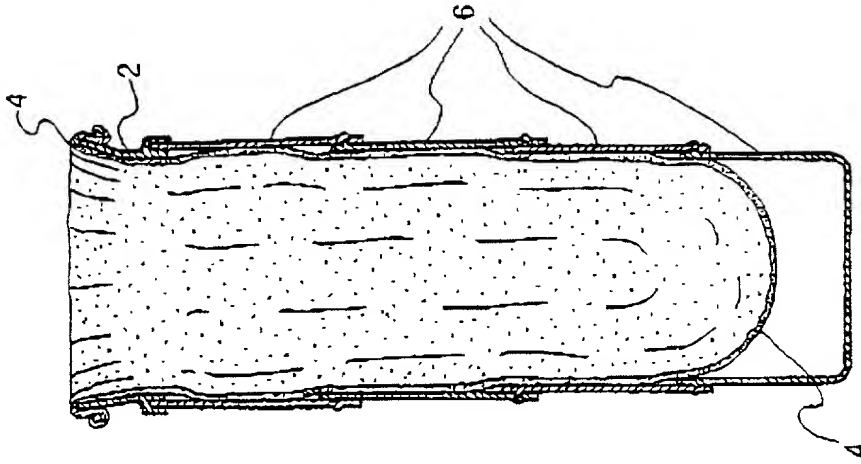


FIG. 4

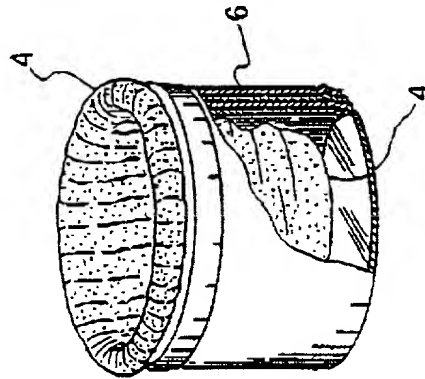


FIG. 3

- 3/6 -

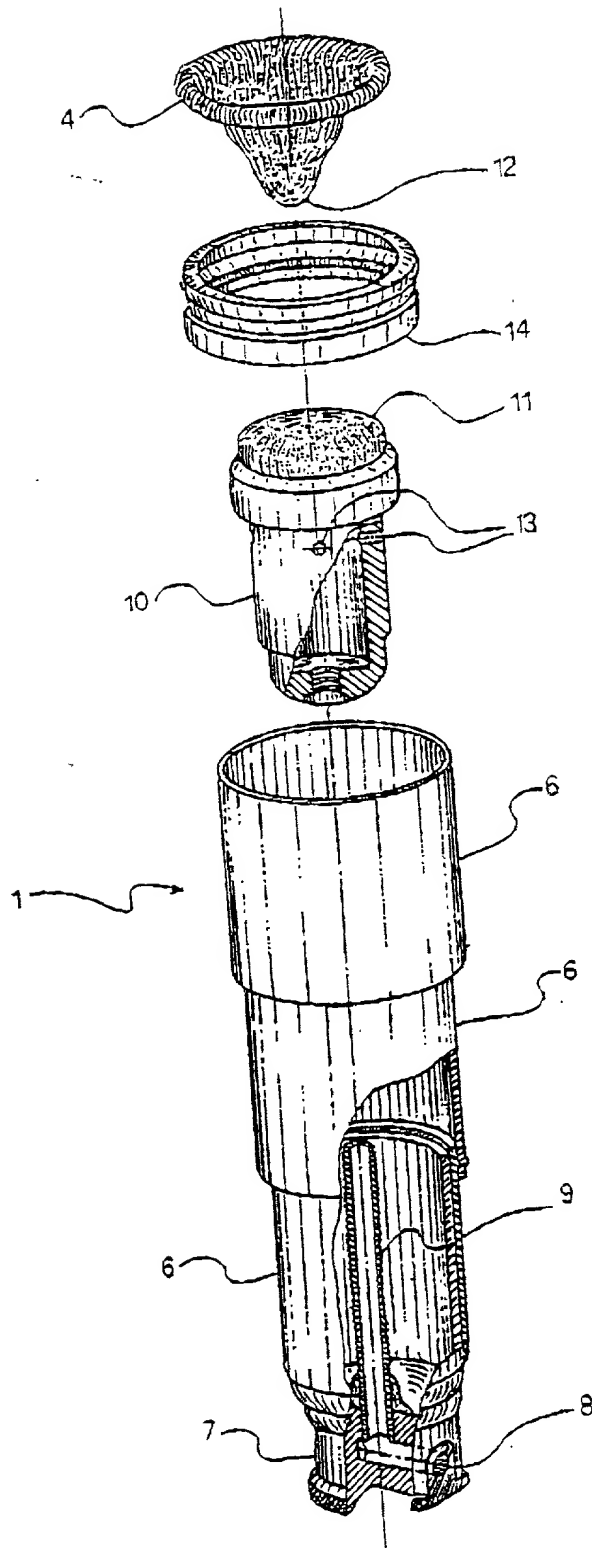


FIG.5

09647121.11600

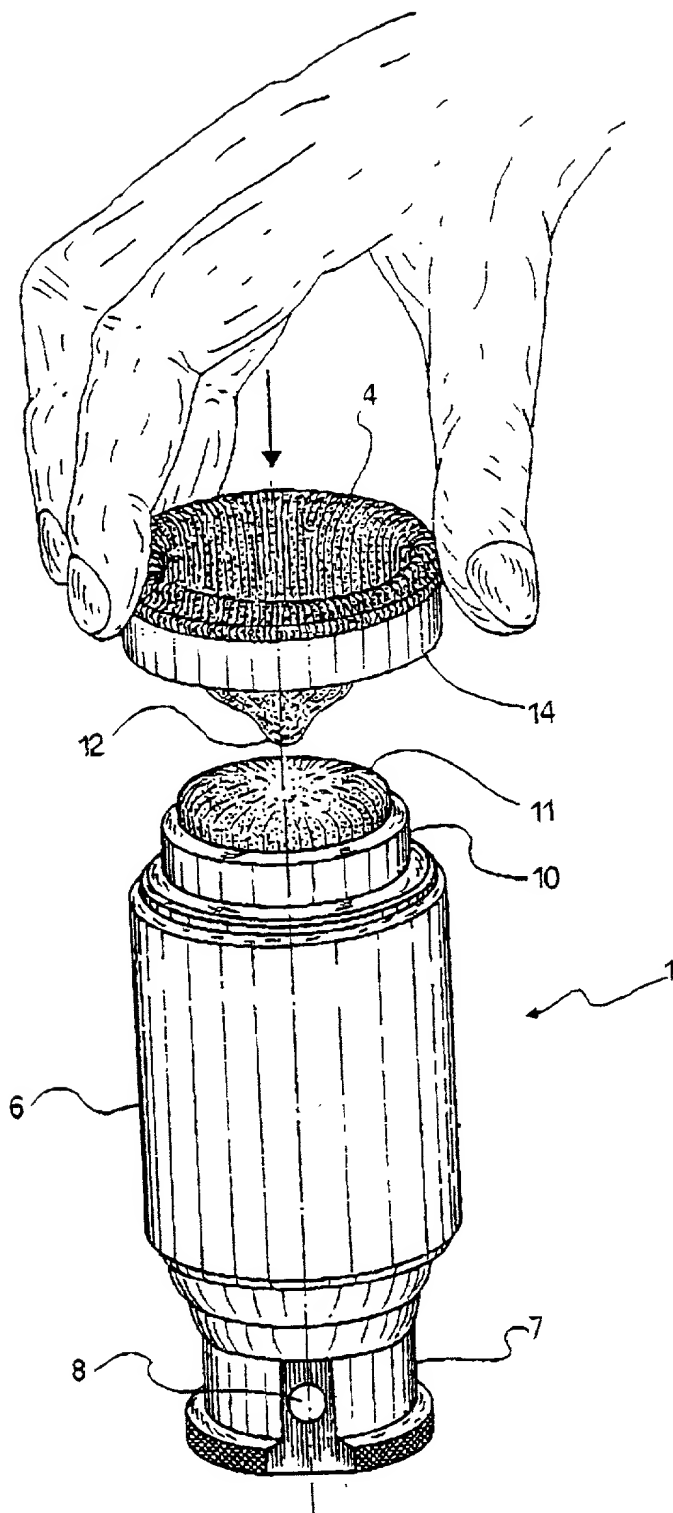


FIG. 6

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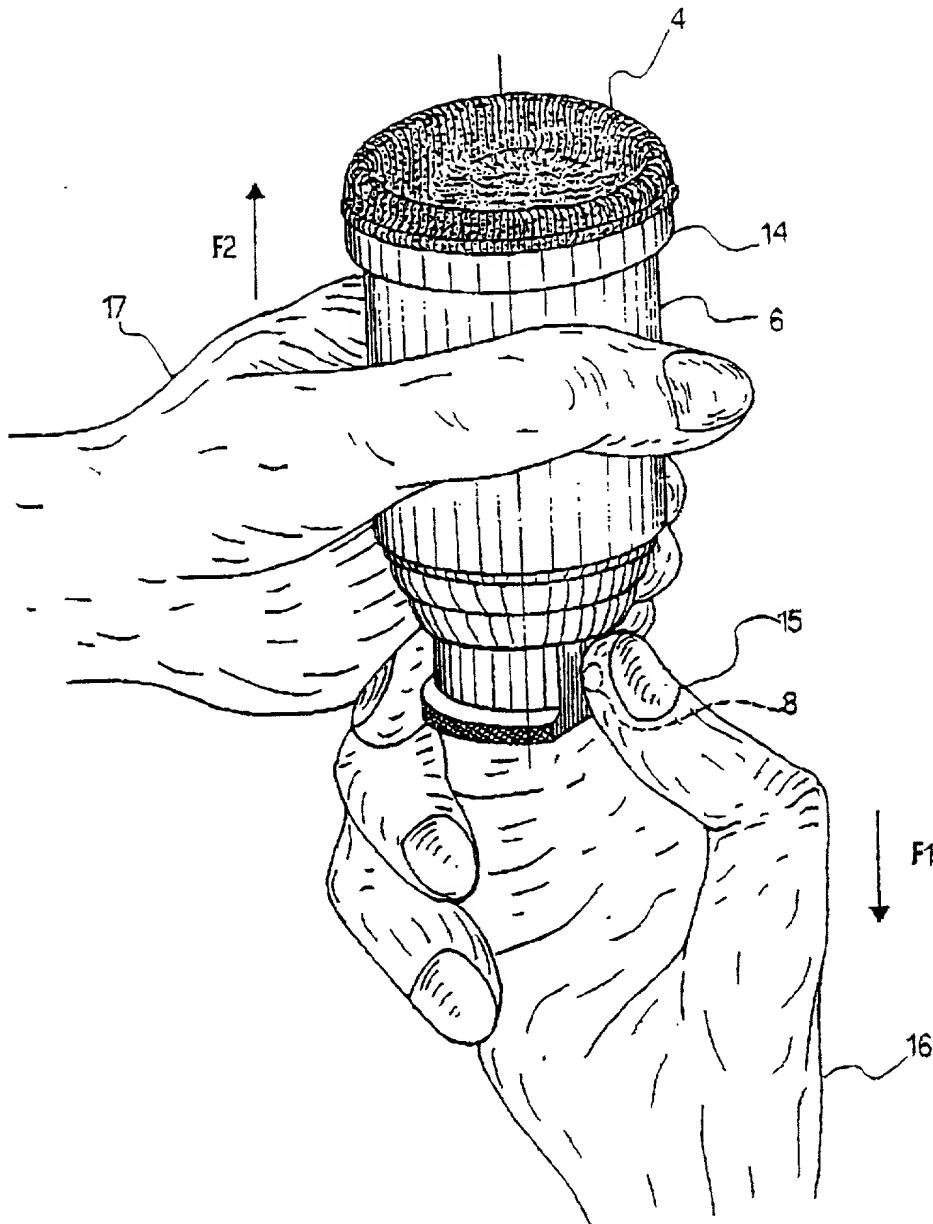


FIG. 7

09647121-11600

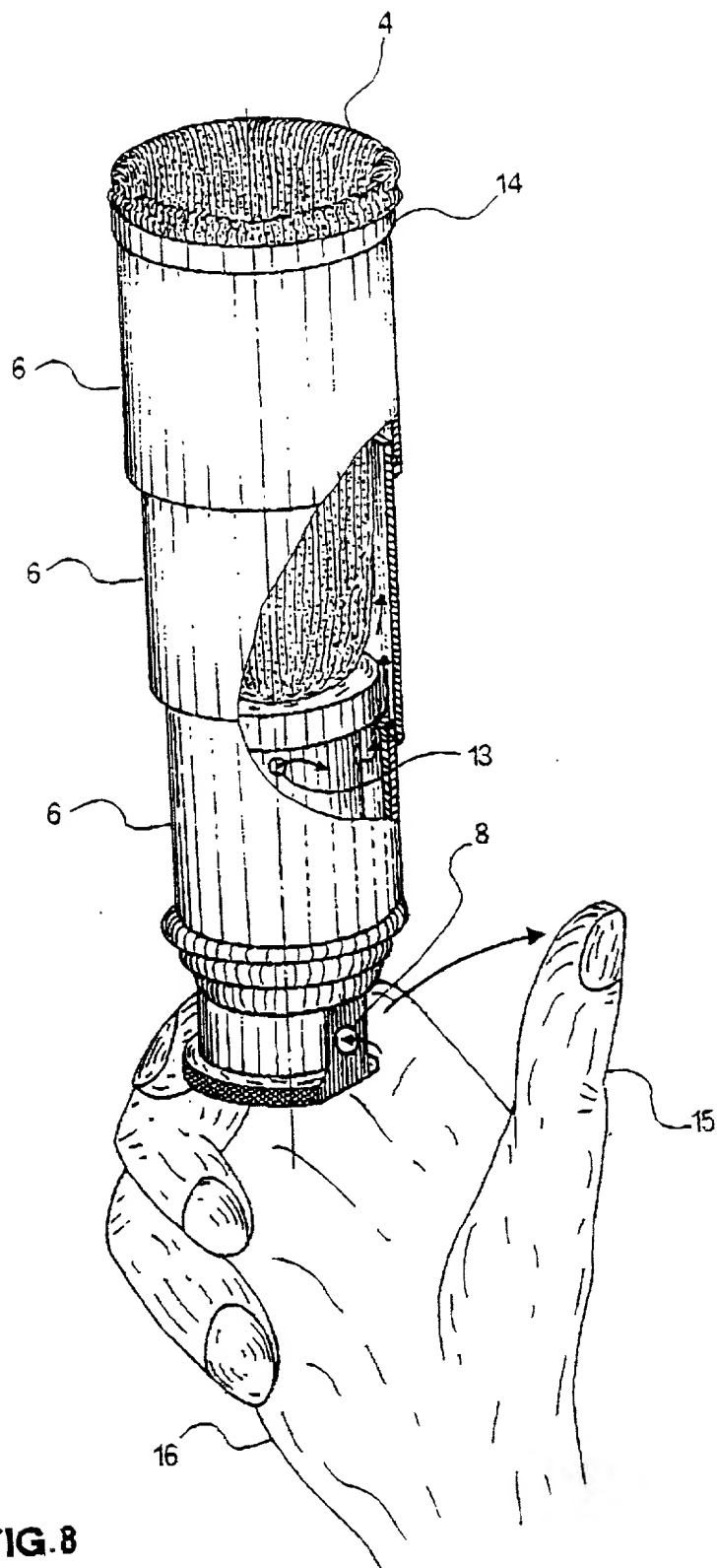


FIG. 8

PATENT

Attorney's Docket No. B-4006PCT 618258-3**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL, DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION, OR CIP)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

TYPE OF DECLARATION

This declaration is of the following type: (check one applicable item below)

- ☒ original
☐ design
☐ supplemental

NOTE: If the declaration is for an International Application being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application, do not check next item; check appropriate one of last three items.

- ☒ national stage of PCT

NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply, then complete and also attach ADDED PAGES FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION, OR CIP.

- ☐ divisional
☐ continuation
☐ continuation-in-part (CIP)

INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

WARNING: If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation of the facts, including the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TITLE OF INVENTION

"DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THE FACILITATED INSERTION OF THE MALE MEMBER INTO A CONDOM"

SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION

the specification of which: (complete (a), (b) or (c))

- (a) ☐ is attached hereto.
 (b) ☒ was filed on _____ as ☒ Serial No. 09 / 647,121 ✓
 or ☐ Express Mail No., as Serial No. not yet known, _____
 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

NOTE: Amendments filed after the original papers are deposited with the PTO which contain new matter are not accorded a filing date by being referred to in the declaration. Accordingly, the amendments involved are those filed with the application papers or, in the case of a supplemental declaration, are those amendments claiming matter not encompassed in the original statement of invention or claims. See 37 CFR 1.67.

- (c) ☒ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/IT99/00070 filed on 24 March 1999 ✓ as amended under PCT Article 19 (1) on 1 September 1999 (if any), and identified as U.S. Serial No. 09/647,121.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code Federal Regulations § 1.56.

☐ In compliance with this duty there is attached an information disclosure statement 37 CFR 1.97.

PRIORITY CLAIM

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign applications(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

(complete (d) or (e))

- (d) ☐ no such applications have been filed.
(e) ☒ such applications have been filed as follows.

NOTE: Where item (c) is entered above and the International Application which designated the U.S. claimed priority check item (e), enter the details below and make the priority claim.

EARLIEST FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS (6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN(S)) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
ITALY	RM98A000199	27 March 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS (6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN(S)) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (List name and registration number)

8 — Richard P. Berg, Reg. No. 28,145
Mavis S. Gallenson, Reg. No. 32,464
Kam C. Louie, Reg. No. 33,008
Ross A. Schmitt, Reg. No. 42,529
Victor Repkin, Reg. No. 45,039
John Palmer, Reg. No. 36,885
Peter D. Galloway, Reg. No. 27,885
William R. Evans, Reg. No. 25,858

(check the following item, if applicable)

☐ Attached as part of this declaration and power of attorney is the authorization of the above-named attorney(s) to accept and follow instructions from my representative(s).

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:

(Name and telephone number)

Richard P. Berg, Esq.
c/o LADAS & PARRY
5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2100
Los Angeles, California 90036-5679

Richard P. Berg
(323) 934-2300

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE(S)

Full name of **sole or first inventor** Lorenzo DI CAMILLO
Inventor's signature *Lorenzo Di Camillo*
Date 09 Nov 2000 Country of Citizenship ITALY
Residence Via Bellavista 14, 03040 San Vittore de Lazio, FR - Italy ITX
Post Office Address (same as residence)

Full name of **second joint inventor**, if any _____
Inventor's signature _____
Date _____ Country of Citizenship _____
Residence _____
Post Office Address _____

**CHECK PROPER BOX(ES) FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ADDED PAGES(S)
WHICH FORM A PART OF THIS DECLARATION**

- ☐ Signature for third and subsequent joint inventors. *Number of pages added*__
- ☐ Signature by administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal representative for deceased or incapacitated inventor. *Number of pages added* ____
- ☐ Signature for inventor who refuses to sign or cannot be reached by person authorized under 37 CFR 1.47. *Number of pages added* *Added pages to combined declaration and power of attorney for divisional, continuation-in-part (CIP) application.*
Number of pages added __

- ☐ Authorization of attorney(s) to accept and follow instructions from representative.

If no further pages form a part of this Declaration then end this Declaration with this page and check the following item.

- ☒ This declaration ends with this page.